GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1218
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006
VACANT POSTS IN SAFETY CATEGORIES
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 20000 vacancies in Group `D` in safety category and 3500 vacancies in RPF are lying vacant for long;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are aware that due to acute shortage of staff, Station Masters are forced to perform commercial duties like sale of tickets, booking of parcels/goods, attending public queries etc.; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to fill up vacant posts in the safety categories?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) Yes, Sir. There exist more than 20000 vacancies in Group `D` category in safety categories and about 1375 vacancies in Railway Protection Force.

(b) Station Masters do perform commercial duties at station where separate staff is not justified due to less workioad as the posting of commercial staff at the station depends on the number of tickets sold at the station. Performance of commercial duty has always been part of the duty list of Station Masters.

(c) General Managers have been empowered to assess their requirement of staff and fill up the same expeditiously by various modes of recruitment.